

# NOTiCIAS DEL OSO

October 28, 2009

#1

Hello fellow teachers!

It has come to my attention that with our growing population of English Language Learners at Berry, we need to make a solid effort to keep the whole staff up to date on the best way to communicate with our LEP group. There is just not enough of me to go around for these kiddos. Each Wednesday, I'll send a PDF file of the newsletter to your busy email inbox. It will be short, because I know you're busy - but the information will be invaluable to most of you.

This time, I'm doing a quick, tangible pre-assessment so that I know whether we're building from the ground up or if we have a solid foundation to work with. I don't want to waste your time, so PLEASE be honest. The assessments can be anonymous, or you may choose to attach your name if you wish.

**PLEASE RETURN THESE TO MY (ERIN VANSICKLE'S) BOX BY FRIDAY AFTERNOON.**

This is just one small step each of us can take to making sure that each of our students gets the support that they need from us, and I appreciate you all adding this to your weekly routine.

Many, many thanks. As always, I'm available to answer any questions or comments you might have, even if it's about a particular student.

*Erin VanSickle*

## PRIOR KNOWLEDGE SURVEY

**1. Do you know which of your students are LEP? (If no, skip #2)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**2. How many of your students are LEP?**

\_\_\_\_\_ 0-5      \_\_\_\_\_ 6-10      \_\_\_\_\_ 10-15      \_\_\_\_\_ 15+

**3. Do you differentiate or modify your instruction already for your LEP students?**

\_\_\_\_\_ No      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes (how?)

**4. Do you know why students are in ESL classes and how they may be exited?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**5. Are you familiar with what the TELPAS rating scores are and if so, could you draw conclusions about what type of work to expect from your LEP students?**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have no clue. What's a TELPAS?

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that there are rankings, but I don't know the hows or whys of it.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm familiar with the scoring, but I'm not sure how it translates to the classroom work.

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm a pro. I know what skills and language levels to expect based on TELPAS results.

**6. Are you aware of the new state requirements focused on preparing LEP students for the TELPAS writing selections?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ No

**7. Should ELL students be allowed and encouraged to read and speak in their first language?**

\_\_\_\_ Yes, of course!

\_\_\_\_ Yes, as long as it does not take away from classroom time devoted to learning concepts, especially in language-driven (ELA & reading) classrooms.

\_\_\_\_ No, it slows their progress developing their second language and becomes a crutch.

**8. Should LEP students be given different assignments because the course material is too hard?**

\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_ Yes, but only if they qualify as 'exempt'

\_\_\_\_ No

**9. What resources or assistance should the ESL teacher be responsible for providing for you and what should you obtain on your own? (short answer response, please!)**

**10. What do the following terms stand for:**

LEP

ESL

ELL

Monitored Student

LPAC

**Bonus Question:**

**What does the title of this newsletter translate to (roughly) in English?**

**Next week, the newsletter will be the correct answers to these questions. Feel free to make a copy before you stick this in my box to grade yourself. Below is the questions/comments box. You may also email those to [evansickle@mesquiteisd.org](mailto:evansickle@mesquiteisd.org).**

Fill me in!